

Good News of Grace

Remember How the Story Ends

Throughout the season of Lent we have been remembering the story of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. We remember his betrayal and arrest. We hear how his friends ran away and one denied even knowing who he was. We hear how Jesus was arrested and endured a sham trial. The Bible recounts in vivid detail the abuse and suffering he endured. The crowning example of the contempt he was shown was when Jesus was executed like a felon in a hideously public display of Roman justice.

If the story had ended at any point along the way, we shudder to think what it would say about God and his attitude toward us. If the end of the story of Jesus had been his rejection, suffering and death, what a different story it would be. If the story had ended in the dark of Calvary as Jesus gave up his spirit and died, it would indicate that suffering and death have the last word. Sin and Satan remain undefeated. Agony and anguish triumph over all.

Sadly, there are many in our world who believe that is how the story ends. "Life's tough and then you die" they declare. If their thoughts turn to God at all they believe he stands powerless in the face of evil or even worse that he is the one who causes the problems and pain which afflict humanity. They suffer or watch someone they love suffer and declare, "How can I believe in a God who allows such a thing to happen?"

But I pray that you know that the story of Jesus of Nazareth did not end on that dark



April
2021

Pastors

Michael Buchhorn
Erik Christensen

Family Worship Times

Sunday: 8:00am &
10:30am
Sunday School
9:15am



THE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod

904 Logan

Wayne, NE

402-375-1905

grow
with US
in
grace

Friday filled with pain and despair. That is not how the story ended. Jesus suffered, died and was buried, but that was not the end of the story. No, we as Christians join the church's confession that: "The third day He rose again from the dead."

The end of the story changes everything. Jesus was not a helpless victim. He was not a duped deliverer left holding a bag of false hopes. No by his resurrection he demonstrated that God's story was about deliverance and life. It was the story of God bringing about the restoration of a world spoiled by sin.

That is vital for us to hold on to. When we go through those dark and perplexing times, the nights filled with pain, the days filled with confusion, this is our time to remember how the story ends. These are our days to remember that sickness and death will not have the last word. Trials and tribulations are not the end. No, Jesus promised "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19b). For believers in Christ, our story ends in the same way Jesus' story ended.

Now for a little while like Jesus we may endure trouble. We may not know why some of those troubles come our way. But we can trust that those troubles are not the end of our story. Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Jesus' story continued on past death to the resurrection. This is our hope as well. Now we can say with Job, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God" (Job 19:25–26). This is a story whose end is worth remembering and celebrating. The Bible says, "We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him" (1 Thes. 4:14). It is for this reason we do not grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. We celebrate Easter so we don't forget how the story ends. May knowing the end of the story fill you with Easter hope and joy.

Join us for our celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 4. We will have a sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. and a festival worship service at 10:30 a.m. The youth group will be hosting an Easter breakfast following the sunrise service and an Easter hymn sing will be held in the sanctuary at 9:15 a.m.

In Christ,
Pastor Buchhorn

Maundy Thursday: April 1 at 6:15 p.m. we will gather in remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ on the anniversary of the night of his betrayal and celebrate the meal He gave us for the forgiveness of sins. *Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.* Matthew 26:26-28

Good Friday: April 2 at 9:00 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. On this solemn day we remember Jesus' death for us. At 9:00 a.m. we will pause for a time of reflection on the words of Jesus from the Cross. At 6:15 p.m. we will conclude the day with a Service of Darkness. Join us for this time to contemplate Christ's crucifixion and its meaning for us. *It was nine in the morning when they crucified him.* Mark 15:25

Holy Saturday: April 3 There will be **no family communion** hour.

Easter Sunday: April 4 at 7:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. We will celebrate the day of resurrection with a joyous Easter worship celebration. The angels' ancient affirmation "He is risen!" still is our reason for rejoicing. Following our 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service an Easter Breakfast hosted by our youth group will be served. Both services will include a celebration of the Lord's Supper. At 9:15 a.m. there will be an Easter Hymn sing in the sanctuary. *"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."* Luke 24:5-7

Wayne State College and Younger Adults

Once again thank you to everyone who has made a college dinner! We truly appreciate all of the love, support, and encouragement that you have provided this semester! If you see a college student around town or attending church with us please help them feel welcome to our family. Ask them about themselves, how they like Wayne, and what they are studying. I'm sure they would love to talk with you too! Also, if you would like to join us for a Sunday Night Supper please know that we would love to have you with us.

To all of our WSC students, any college student in the area, and any of our young adults who would like to join us in our Bible studies and events this year we invite you to come! Come meet us at Cup of Grace for some fantastic fellowship and growth in your faith! We still have some fantastic opportunities for you to be a part of Campus Ministry! Not only do we eat dinner together every Sunday Night, we also have a Bible study every Thursday evening that starts at 5:30pm. This study seeks to answer the question, "Is the Bible Reliable?" The answer is yes but come find out how we can back this up with some pretty awe-inspiring evidence from around the world! We will have 4 more lessons on this study, and then we are turning our attention to the Miracles of Jesus! Not able to join us Thursday, don't worry Sunday night is another opportunity to dive into God's Word! Over the next two weeks, starting at 7:30pm, we discuss Biblical themes found in the last Harry Potter film. Once done with that we are turning our attention to a Bible Study built around the NEW TV show *The Chosen!* Invite your friends, get a group together, and come join us for some awesome fun!

Youth Midweek Bible Studies Midweek Classes for all ages are going to continue through April 28th this year. Confirmation for our 7th and 8th Grade students will still end on March 24th with our Confirmation Service being held at the 10:30am service on March 28th! The meetings in April will not be confirmation these will be Bible Study nights intended to keep our youth in God's word and growing together in faith and fellowship with each other. With the continuation of our midweek Lent Services on Wednesdays (services held at 6:15PM) our MidWeek classes will continue to meet from 7pm to 8pm through the end of March. In April we will go back to meeting from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, with all 7th and 8th Grade students meeting with Pastor Erik down in the church basement. We look forward to seeing all of our 3rd through 8th grade students here at church as much as we can, and there is still time to join in with these classes as we learn more about God's love for all of His creation!

High School Sunday School Class We want to invite all of our High School Youth and Parents to the High School Sunday School class that Jeff and Colleen Simpson are leading! We will continue to meet in the fellowship hall right by the sanctuary. Come join us as we want you to be strong in your faith, and Biblical knowledge since God promises to speak to us through His Word. Let's continue to build strong relationships together in fellowship as well!

Youth Game Night: Tag, you're it! On April 24th, the Grace Lutheran Youth Group will be hosting a game of "QR Code Phone Tag," and all students will need to participate is an internet enabled smartphone, preferably with a data plan, a willingness to follow rules, and plenty of team spirit. This event will begin at 5:00PM, at which time food will be provided, and it will go until 8:00PM, which gives plenty of time for eating, the activity, and a Bible Study. To assist with this event, while pizza and drinks will be provided by the Youth Group, we are looking for parents that would be willing to help by providing a dessert. For interested parents, please let Pastor Erik know if you would be willing help in this way, along with which students will be planning to attend, so we can work to get everything organized. After all, we wouldn't want to have too few QR Codes, and pizza, to go around! With all of this in mind, we look forward to seeing everyone on April 24th, at 5:00PM, for a little game of technologically advanced tag.

National Youth Gathering Fundraiser On April 4th, we will once again be celebrating the joy the women had on that first Easter morning! We too will gather around God's word to hear the greatest truth the world has ever known. Namely, that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ after dying for our sins walked out of the grave ALIVE 3 days later. As we say, He is Risen... He is Risen, Indeed, Alleluia! With our celebration also comes our traditional (maybe not so traditional) Easter Breakfast from 8am to 9am that morning! We will once again be serving food for our church, visitors, and anyone who is attending an Easter service down in the church basement. However, the menu will be slightly different this year. We will still have the classic staples. Such as an assortment of amazing roles and donuts from Vel's Bakery, fruit, orange juice, and milk! Instead of Breakfast Casseroles, however, we will be serving Breakfast Burritos. These will be individually wrapped for health precautions. Our breakfast burritos will still feature eggs, sausage, cheese, and hash browns. Please make plans to join us for this morning as all proceeds from our free will donation and envelope fundraiser will go to helping our youth group attend the National Youth Gathering in 2022! If you are a youth family and have not already signed up to help provide food on our signup genius,

please use this link to do so now [Bit.ly/EasterBreakfast21](https://bit.ly/EasterBreakfast21). (An Envelope fundraiser for those who don't know is where you have envelopes numbered 1-100. The numbers are associated with how much money you are contributing to our NYG fundraiser. For instance, if you take the envelope numbered 1 you contribute \$1. If you take the envelope numbered 2 then you donate \$2, and so on. You don't have to go in any particular order, but we do appreciate all of the kind donations that we can get. Once we have raised \$3000 from this envelope fundraiser the youth group will be doing a service project that will be announced later.)

National Youth Gathering Planning Meeting All 7th Graders through High School Juniors, as well as their Parents, who are interested in joining in on the July 9-13th, 2022 trip to Houston, Texas for the next National Youth Gathering are asked to attend a planning meeting that will take place Wednesday April 14th at 6:30PM. This meeting will be held in the church basement, and will take place in place of our Midweek class that evening. We will have a short Bible study to kick off our time together, and then we will discuss all things NYG! This Gathering's theme is *"In All Things"*, focusing on Colossians 1:15-20. We know that God is in all things, and works through them for the benefit of those who believe in Him! Bring your questions, invite your friends, and come hungry as food will be provided. We need to get a jump on a lot of things, so you won't want to miss this meeting. However, if you cannot join us please contact Pastor Erik and let him know of your interest in attending the NYG!

Sunday School

It seems like not that long ago we were making the statement, "Jesus Is The Reason For The Season!"

The Nursery class is now learning that the Baby Jesus that God gave us at Christmas is the same person that died on the cross on Good Friday for our sins and rose on the third day, Easter! Of course, the students wonder why Jesus had to suffer so much during Holy Week, and I tell them it was all part of God's plan! With that, if your child comes home from Sunday School and tells you that they cracked eggs in class, just know they were not real eggs! The students love when we do the "Resurrection Story" using a dozen plastic eggs because when they "crack" open these eggs, they have an object from the many incidents that happened during Holy Week. Some of the items inside the eggs are the donkey, which Jesus rode on Palm Sunday, the "pokey" crown, which they made Jesus wear, the nails used to nail Jesus to the cross, the stone that was rolled in front of the tomb, and the last egg, which has nothing in it, shows that Jesus rose from the dead.

Here is a quiz for you to complete. Match the sentence with the events in the life of Jesus during Holy Week.

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. He was in a parade. | A. Maundy Thursday |
| 2. He had a special meal with his friends. | B. Palm Sunday |
| 3. He rose from the dead. | C. Good Friday |
| 4. It was a sad happy day. | D. Easter Sunday |
- Answers 1B, 2A, 3D, 4C

Parents, I enjoy having your child in my class, and I often think to myself, "Out of the mouth of Babes!" Don't forget Sunday School goes from 9:15AM to 10:15AM, and as the year continues, I hope that we will soon get to resume our "Music Time" because the children like to sing.

May each of you have a happy, and blessed, Easter from the Nursery Class! Just think, soon we will be making the statement, "He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!" ~Nancy Meyer, Nursery Class Teacher

As Sunday School classes continue to begin in the individual classrooms, parents should continue to drop off their children to their grade level classroom. As we continue to work to bring back some of our previous activities, please continue to check for updates, in the bulletin, newsletter, and our Facebook page.

Although the masks mandate has ended, the Sunday School will continue to work to provide a safe educational experience for all of our children. As such, masks will continue to be provided, and teachers will be encouraged to continue their current cleaning practices. We appreciate your continued support!

Looking toward Easter, the Sunday School will be offering an Easter Devotion and Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3rd, beginning with the all ages devotion on the church steps at 10:00AM. The Easter Egg Hunt portion of this event, which will only be open to children between Preschool and 2nd grades, will begin following the devotion, at which time we will move to the Preschool playground until the event is complete. In the lead up to April 3rd, if anyone would like to help provide for this activity, the Sunday School is requesting monetary donations to help to cover the cost of the individually bagged candy that will be provided to any children that attend this activity. Any donations, labeled and taken to the church office, would be greatly appreciated!

Sunday School will take place on Easter Sunday, April 4th, during the regular Sunday School time.

Our next Sunday School meeting, focused largely on teacher enrichment, will take place on April 8th, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

For the past several months, the Sunday School children have been assisting the Ladies' Aid by collecting spare change in mite boxes, which will be going to support the Comfort Dogs organization. In response, this organization will be sending several representatives, along with their comfort dog, to meet and teach the students during the Sunday School hour on April 11th. If anyone would like to attend this presentation, please plan to be available on this date!

Before this event, it would be much appreciated if parents could alert the Sunday School about any specific issues that relate to their children, such as allergies and/or animal related apprehension. Also, parents should still plan to drop off their children to individual classrooms on this date.

For the month of April, regarding to our service project, the Sunday School will be requesting gender and age appropriate t-shirts (nonmilitary and non offensive). As always, if you are interested in helping with this activity, the Sunday School will be collecting any donations for this project in the marked bin by the Sunday School office, in the basement. Thank you for your continued generosity!

For more information, and updates concerning any future plans for Sunday School activities, please make sure to join and routinely check our Facebook page. Join by searching Grace Lutheran Sunday School, Wayne, NE for updates and weather-related announcements.

To close, we sincerely appreciate the patience of all of our Sunday School parents and students as we strive to continue to offer a Christ centered educational experience. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you have an interest in teaching, subbing, or assisting in a non-teaching fashion, please contact Derek Jareske at 402-369-1555 or dejarc01@gmail.com. Thank you!

Respectfully,

The Sunday School Program (sundayschool@gracewayne.com)

Fishers of Kid's Preschool We are ready for spring! Dr.

Seuss' birthday was celebrated by reading books, watching movies, doing activities related to his books, and by eating green eggs and ham! The students learned about different kinds of weather, and how to dress for the weather. Parent/teacher conferences were held on Sunday, March 14th. St. Patrick's Day was also celebrated with a variety of activities, including a shamrock hunt! We have been preparing for Easter by learning the Easter story, and opening eggs that contain objects related to the story.

This month, we will also be exploring signs of spring and going on egg hunts in many different ways! Next month, we will learn about living/nonliving things, seeds, and Earth Day. We continue to work on our letter of the week, and M/W/F class has accomplished counting to 100 as a group! Graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 7th, and the students have been busy practicing songs for their graduation.

Happy Easter!

Camp Luther The summer is quickly coming! Can you believe that sentence, it might seem hard to think about with all the winter weather we are having and the storms that have reached as far as Texas! Yet, it is coming and will be here before we know it, and that means it is time to enroll your children in one of the many programs offered at Camp Luther! From living in a treehouse for a week, to diving head first into a week of STEM experiments (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), to a river trip down the Niobrara River there is something for everyone at Camp Luther and this is just the tip of the iceberg! For more Information and a flyer on these great opportunities contact Pastor Erik or you can find Camp Luther's website at [www. campluther.org](http://www.campluther.org)! Don't miss out on a summer full of growth in God's love for you!

VBS Are YOU excited to sail away on a high seas adventure with your friends from church? Inviting all 3year olds through 6th graders to come join us June 13th through 17th to Mystery Island Vacation Bible School where they will see our sanctuary and church turned into an island resort! Help us dig into the Mystery of God's love for you and your friends that week! We will meet from 5:15pm to 8pm every evening, Sunday through Thursday, with a dinner provided. To sign your child up to participate follow this link bit.ly/GraceWayneVBS2021 and if you would like to help as a volunteer please contact either Angie Beiermann, Jill Roeber, or Pastor Erik. Don't walk the plank this summer by missing out... Set sail and see where God's love can take you!

L.I.F.T. April's L.I.F.T. gathering will be a fellowship activity: Spring Fling at the Stables in Norfolk (vendor show) followed by lunch; Saturday, April 10th. We will plan to meet at the church at 9:30am to carpool. All are welcome. Call or text Teresa at 402-369-2653 for more information.

Plan ahead with us:

Saturday, May 8th Bible study and breakfast 9:00am. @ TBA

June we will be taking a break.

July activity tentative thinking barbeques, beach, and boating in Yankton on the 11th.

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Connect to Disciple: On April 25 we will begin a new Disciple Training workshop entitled "Connect to Disciple." This material was produced in response to the Re:Vitality initiative of our synod. In the survey conducted at the end of 2020 outreach and equipping to share our faith was one of the areas that our congregation self identified as an area where growth was needed/desired. This material was developed by our synod to help meet that need. This class will meet in the basement during adult Bible class hour beginning at 9:15 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid

March 10, 2021

Grace Ladies Aid met March 10, 2021 with 12 members answering roll call and reciting the LWML Pledge. Ellen Heinemann presented the Christian Growth devotion, "Jesus' Servants", based on Galatians 5:13 where we are encouraged through love to serve one another. President Rhonda Sebade presented the Mite Mission Grant, Ysleta Lutheran Mission Care, El Paso, Texas. This music ministry has proven to be a success in reaching out to the unchurched and being a witness to the mercy and grace of Christ building relationships with music students and training leaders.

The minutes were read and approved. The treasures report was given and filed for audit. Correspondence was shared. Committee reports were given. The sewing group tied 4 quilts and a memorial donation will be used for supplies. The greeting card ministry continues to reach out to our congregational members. This month the confirmands were given glow sticks as a reminder to glow with God's word. Best Choice labels were sent in and 400 more labels have been given toward the next goal of 1000. An Easter lily will be purchase for the altar display in memory of Ladies Aid members who have passed away. The remainder of the meeting time was used to plan for the LWML Spring Workshop, April 13, which our group will host for other LWML groups in our zone. A noon meal will be served as well as morning coffee and goodies. Items will be collected from these groups as well as our own congregational members for making hygiene and school kits which will be given to Orphan Grain Train.

Kathryn Buchhorn's birthday was acknowledged and the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be April 14, 2021.

WAYNE ZONE LWML WORKSHOP

Tuesday, April 13th, 2021

Grace Lutheran Church
904 Logan Wayne, Ne

“KNOW YOUR IDENTITY”

Speaker: Pastor Nabil Nour

He was born in Israel, Immigrated to USA when 16.
Graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1994
Now serving at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hartford, SD
4th Vice President of LCMS

Registration will be from 9-9:20
We will close with lunch at noon.

Ingathering of Hygiene kits and school kits will be given to
Orphan Grain Train
Grace Ladies will deliver to Orphan Grain Train.

Hygiene Kits:

1 bath towel
1 wash cloth
1 bath size bar of soap
1 toothbrush
1 sturdy comb
6 band-aids (1/2” or 3/4”)
secured together

School Kits:

Back pack or bag
24 pack crayons
2 spiral notebooks
ruler
2 pencils
2 glue sticks
2 pens
Scissors
10 sheets construction paper
washable markers 8-10 pack

We can also bring items individually if the kits aren't full.

Alaska Mission for Christ Opportunities

AMC has been given a new service opportunity in Haines, Alaska. Haines is located in southeast Alaska, requiring a flight to Juneau and then ferry to Haines. Haines sustained a large landslide in early December, and the community is asking for assistance from our ministry to help in clearing debris and rebuilding structures.

The Work & Witness projects in **May** include:

- Clearing fallen debris

- Chainsawing trees

- Moving gravel

- Rebuilding a 10 X 15 shed

- Update a bathroom and laundry room for a displaced family

- Build a 20 X 40 Sunday school room (pad already poured)

The Work & Witness projects in **August** include:

- Pouring footings at ECHO Ranch Bible Camp for a section needing to be rebuilt onto their lodge structure

- Continue community projects identified over the summer

- Upgrade church restrooms for ADA compliance

- Correct water issues in a parsonage's basement

We have also been asked to locate teams who would like to serve an hour outside of Fairbanks in **September** to continue work on the log cabin structures at Bingle Camp. This would require a flight to Fairbanks. Transportation to the camp would be provided.

If you are interested in finding out more about these opportunities, contact Darlene Lilienkamp: dalili52@yahoo.com or 402.369.1499

Mission Council Minutes

March 8, 2021 7:30 p.m.

The Mission Council at Grace Lutheran Church met at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2021. The following members were present: Jerry Echtenkamp, Deb Jensen, Justin Anderson, Pastor Buchhorn, Angie Beiermann, Dwight Mock, Neal Greenwald, Josh Ruwe and Heather Reinhardt.

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Echtenkamp.

The minutes from the February 8, 2021 Mission Council Meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Justin and seconded by Dwight to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.

Deb Jensen presented the Financial Reports for February 2021. It was moved by Justin and seconded by Neal to approve the financial reports. The motion was approved.

Josh Ruwe gave the Elders' report. The board of Elders met on February 22 for their February and March combined meeting. They continued their Bible study on *Shepherding our Strays*. Membership changes included one addition by baptism and three losses, two by death and one by self-exclusion. Weddings scheduled for 2021 were reviewed and a request for a non-member wedding in December 2021 was discussed and approved. Pastor Erik reported on the progress of the Junior Confirmation class. Seven students are preparing for confirmation during the 10:30 a.m. service on Palm Sunday, March 28. The Sunday School is seeking someone to take on the director duties beginning this summer and the elders were asked to suggest possible leaders. Campus Student ministry is continuing with Bible Studies and Sunday night meals. It is anticipated that seven adults will be joining our congregation at the conclusion of the Adult Instruction class in mid-March. The Circuit Bible Institute was cancelled due to weather. The district Pastor's conference will be held March 8 & 9 with the presentations online and the circuit pastors gathering at Cup of Grace for discussion. Ministry in light of COVID items were reviewed. With the extension of the mask ordinance in Wayne, the elders initially decided to advise against having midweek Lenten meals. With the ordinance being lifted meals are able to be done if a group wants to sponsor one. An Easter breakfast meal is being planned. It was decided to resume children's messages in March with older children being asked to wear masks when they come forward. The Lenten schedule was reviewed and the time for the Easter Sunrise service was set for 7 a.m. with breakfast following. A

hymn sing is being planned instead of Adult Bible Class on Easter. Our directly supported Missionary to Mexico will be joining us via Zoom on April 18 and the Sunday School is planning on hosting a Comfort Dog on April 11. A vacation request for Pastor Buchhorn for April 8-13 was approved. The next meeting is scheduled for April 5.

Committee Member Reports

Trustee Report, Justin Anderson- Justin spoke with Gene Casey and he noted that Joey Niemann would be willing to prepare and maintain the sprinklers at the start/during the summer at only the cost of supplies if needed. Gene Casey has agreed to provide lawn service again for this year. There was more discussion of a water softener recommendation and the condition of the water heater was also discussed. There have been times where the kitchen has run out of hot water during large gatherings. Justin has been speaking with Zach Heating & Cooling about both projects and they will be coming to assess both and give possible bids/solutions to present at the next meeting.

Campus Ministry, Jerry Echtenkamp spoke with Pastor Erik for the report. Symphony Jareske will be the new resident in Cup of Grace. Since COVID has presented some challenges with college engagement, Eric has reached out to different college contacts to find more ways of connecting with the college students on-campus.

Memorial Fund, KimBerly Hansen reported to Deb the current Memorial fund balance of \$3005.19. Memorial funds have been distributed recently to the choir, Ladies Quilting Circle and the kitchen fund.

Education, Heather Reinhardt received a report from Derek Jareske on behalf of the Sunday school. The Sunday School program is planning to host an Easter Egg Hunt, in some capacity, on Saturday, April 3rd. Plans to offer this activity are still in progress, but in the meantime, the Sunday School is asking for monetary donations to assist with the purchase of candy for this event. Also during the month of April, the Sunday School is excitedly looking forward to a visit from the Comfort Dogs organization on April 11th, during the Sunday School hour. For the last several months, the children have been helping the Ladies' Aid with their mite box initiative by collecting extra change, which will be going to support the Comfort Dogs organization. Several representatives from this organization have agreed to come to our church to speak to the students and to introduce everyone to their new comfort dog. Finally, looking back over the past few weeks, the Sunday School has been privileged to be

able to continue to offer regular instruction to the students of Grace Lutheran Church, including a brief lesson during the second half of the Sunday School hour on March 7th about the Old Testament temple and how it relates to our worship space.

Preschool, Angie Biermann reported on behalf of the Preschool Board meeting that was held on February 26. During the meeting they changed the start time of preschool from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., so it easier for parents who need to go to work. The Head Teacher's contract for the 2021-2022 school year was reviewed. A yearly salary increase of \$2000.00 was discussed for the Head Teacher to accommodate the additional hours of opening at 8:00 a.m. and will be decided and voted on at the Mission Council meeting in March. A teacher assistant was hired this year due to the number of children and the additional COVID precautions that would need to be made. It was discussed at the Preschool Board meeting the need for a teacher assistant next year. Decisions will be made at a later date as enrollment numbers are assessed for next year. They will also be putting a write up in the bulletin seeking those who would like to volunteer. Tuition fees will be raised by \$10/month starting in the Fall. Due to some class cancellations, Keila will see if parents would like to add an additional class week to the preschool schedule. Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for Sunday, March 14th.

There were no other committee reports.

Old Business:

Ongoing Facility Projects-

The Main Street sign was further discussed. Pastor Buchhorn presented a price comparison between the bids from Love Signs and SignTech. SignTech's estimated bid was considerably lower. Dwight will be contacting SignTech for a firm bid on a monochrome style sign to move forward with the project.

Ray Jensen has been in contact with the builders for the east church door replacement and plans continue to move forward.

Pastor Buchhorn stated that the carpets could use a deep cleaning in the educational wing/addition of the church once we get through the sand/salt winter season. Justin is going to contact a few carpet cleaning companies for bids and email the council for further discussion.

District & Circuit items- The LCMS announced the results of the vote to delay the national convention due to complications from the pandemic. It was decided that the National convention has been rescheduled for 2023 and the Nebraska district convention will be rescheduled for 2022. The district Pastor's conference will be held March 8 & 9 with the presentations online and the circuit pastors gathering at Cup of Grace for discussion.

Worship Live Streaming –Overall the system seems to be meeting all our needs and is working well.

The City mask mandate ended March 2nd but COVID precautions are still needed to be taken to keep our congregation safe and healthy.

On April 18th in-between services during Bible Study, mission worker Daniel Conrad will be presenting virtually about his mission work in Mexico. The congregation is providing financial support for his mission work this year.

Spring clean-up for the church is scheduled for April 10th at 1:00 p.m. Congregation members are encouraged to bring their skills and talents to help with general maintenance of the church.

New Business:

Due to the extended time of the preschool being open at 8:00 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. in the Fall 2021, the Preschool Board recommended a \$2000.00 a year salary increase for the Head Teacher. A motion was made by Heather and seconded by Deb to approve the new contract for Keila Olson as the Head Teacher of the preschool. The new contract is to begin September 1, 2021. Motion carried.

The board received notification that Pastor Erik will reach the fifth anniversary of his ordination this summer. Ideas for a summer recognition will be discussed in future meetings.

The meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.

The Next Meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2021.

GRACE FAMILY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bonnie Hansen & Madelyn Latham
- 2 Andrea Trautman & Kari Woehler
- 3 Matthew Schaefer
- 4 Laura Mitchell
- 5 Amanda Broberg
- 6 Landen Ekberg, Larsyn Ekberg & Russ Volk
- 8 Justin Anderson, Tasha Forsyth, Abigail Bose & Jason Claussen
- 9 Craig Evans, Chase Forsyth, Desiree Kneifl, Axylle Kurpgeweit, Debi Morlok, Sandy Bartling & Sara Ruwe
- 10 Layne Evans, Makayla Heithold, Kash Koch & Tammy Nissen
- 11 Payton Janke & Tim Reinhardt
- 12 Kourtney Hefti
- 13 Carlene Bodlak
- 14 Nancy Johnson & Joey Niemann
- 16 Ethan Cross
- 17 Diane Hefti, Konnor Kai & Sydnie Niemann
- 18 Scott Hansen & Marcine Rohrberg
- 19 Matthew Sharer
- 20 Lucille Ocampo, Hunter Ruwe & Londa Stowater
- 21 Candace Heggemeyer & Logan Slama
- 23 Sherry Haase, Trevor Hurlbert & Aiden Kesting
- 24 Nicole Cross
- 27 Lisa Niemann & Elizabeth Sharer
- 28 Patrick Young
- 29 Coleman Kneifl & Logan Schafer
- 30 Nora Heithold

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